



AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Annual Report 2000–2001

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2000–01

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The Honourable Joe Hockey, MP
Minister for Financial Services and Regulation

I have pleasure in submitting the Report of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council for the year ended 30 June 2001.

The Report outlines the work undertaken by the Council and is submitted to you for presentation to Parliament under sub-section 24(2) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*.

The Report is dated on the day I approved the finalised text for printing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John MacLeod".

J.D.S. MacLeod
Chairman

30 September 2001

Australian Statistics Advisory Council

Mission

To ensure that, in keeping with Council's statutory charter, the advice furnished to the Minister and the Statistician in relation to the collection and dissemination of statistics has due regard to relative priorities, is objective, relevant, timely, constructive and practical, and that it is sensitive to the needs of both suppliers and users of statistical data.

FOREWORD

This report marks my retirement after a period of some 18 years as a member of ASAC. It is an appropriate time to reflect on the activities and outcomes of the work of the Council.

The starting point is membership. ASAC has been fortunate to have had the unpaid services of a very diverse, experienced and concerned group of Australians. There has been frequent turnover, which ensures that different points of view have been represented. This means that it has not always been possible to reach unanimous viewpoints and very often the great value to the ABS professionals has been in appreciating the different viewpoints.

How then can we judge the contribution of ASAC? The ABS has a large and talented staff with close connections to information providers and users of output. Then there are the specialist consultative groups (including government departments) which provide valuable inputs. This leaves the important macro policy issues for the focus of ASAC's work.

The ABS produces a wide range of statistics, and constituencies for continuing (or expanding) those statistics are quickly formed. Examples are census products, labour market statistics, price and wage indexes etc. Budget constraints in recent years means that new resources to cover new areas of the economy and society can only be financed by either productivity improvements in the ABS, sales revenue for publications or less frequent collection of some of the more costly products. ASAC is therefore confronted with issues at the margin and advising on the ranking of competing priorities.

ASAC has been most effective when it has identified important issues and has kept coming back to the issues until they have been satisfactorily addressed. This is a long process often covering many years. Some examples of the diverse areas where ASAC has made a real contribution are: the importance of electronic data collection, processing and distribution; the large gaps in Indigenous statistics; charging for publications; the need for much greater coverage of the fast growing service sector including IT statistics; the policy needs for more local area data.

The Census is a major operation for the ABS and the army of part-time workers engaged to cope with a very large workload. The efficiency improvements over the past two decades are remarkable. This has been achieved without sacrificing quality. Australian census data ranks with the best in the world.

Much remains to be done to improve Australia's statistical service. Progress in drawing together statistical data from a multitude of sources has been slow. The new economy presents many statistical challenges, which require pioneering and exciting statistical

innovation. Globalisation is also changing many of the well established concepts. It has become evident, for example, that using GDP as a measure of Australia's progress is inadequate, but as we struggle with measurement of many of the new concepts it is clear that there is no simple solution.

The answer to meeting future statistical needs and maintaining the highest professional standards requires that the funding of the ABS be given an adequate priority. Policymakers are dependent on quality statistics and it is therefore important that the Government allocates sufficient financial resources to ensure Australia is well served in future.

ASAC is a body where information flows both ways across the table. ASAC members thus act as informed agents for the work of the ABS. My time on the Council has been very rewarding and much of the credit must go to the high quality ABS staff - a group who have accepted the challenge of international excellence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.D.S. MacLeod".

J.D.S. MacLeod
Chairman

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Note: In this Report, after the first reference, the Australian Statistics Advisory Council is referred to as ASAC or the Council, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics as the ABS or the Bureau.

1. IMPACT OF ASAC ON ABS WORK PROGRAM AND OUTPUTS IN 2000–01

The identification of statistical priorities for the ABS forward work program is the most important area of input from Council. In undertaking its role, Council recognises that Australia is very well served in terms of core economic and social statistics. Therefore, the focus of Council is primarily on identifying new and significant emerging policy issues. Council begins the process by identifying major social, economic and political issues likely to be of policy significance over the next 3 to 5 years. This priority list is then considered in the context of the existing ABS statistical work program to highlight gaps and redundancies.

The effectiveness of Council as an advisory body to the ABS and the Minister, is best judged by the extent to which the ABS work program and outputs evolve to reflect the contemporary and emerging needs of the policy makers and other key users as identified by Council.

Some of the main themes that Council have been pursuing with the ABS in recent years, and the ABS responses in 2000–01, are discussed below.

Increasing use of administrative by-product and other external data sources

Council members have actively encouraged the ABS to increase its use of administrative data, and to enhance the national statistical service by improving the quality and accessibility of such data. Council has seen significant potential for the ABS to better utilise both public and private administrative and transactional data sources.

Some examples of progress in this regard are illustrated by the following developments during 2000–01:

- the development of compendium publications which bring together data from a large range of ABS and external sources, especially State and Local Government data, to provide information at a regional level;
- the release of an expanded *Integrated Regional Data Base, Australia*, which provided access to a broad range of information at a regional level, including over 930 non-ABS statistical series, from around twenty different organisations;
- the release of a range of new statistical directories to provide users with information on sources of statistics, from both the public and private sectors for agriculture and rural statistics; and electricity, gas, water and sewerage statistics. Council has supported the development of statistical directories to assist users in identifying relevant data sources;

- the further expansion in the range of ABS National Centres with the creation of the National Centre for Education and Training. Council has consistently encouraged the development of National Centres that specialise in particular subject matter fields to lead and coordinate the development of information plans not just within the ABS, but right across the public and private sectors;
- the extensive work by ABS to take advantage of the opportunities arising from the introduction of The New Tax System and existing tax data sources; and
- ABS working with Commonwealth and State agencies to identify Indigenous people in their administrative collections and to improve the quality of the resulting data. Priority areas have been births, deaths, health, education and training, and crime.

***Increasing focus on services sector and
in particular information technology***

Data on the services sector has been high on Council's list of priorities for many years. The development in 1995 of a service statistics strategy was welcomed and strongly endorsed by Council, and the subsequent implementation of that strategy has seen a substantial expansion in the range of data available in respect of the services sector. In particular, Council members encouraged the ABS to expand the range and depth of data on the information technology and telecommunications sector. There are major conceptual and technical problems in relation to service sector statistics and Council has noted that Australia is a world leader in this area.

Council was pleased to note that releases in 2000–01 included a range of publications which further expanded data on the important services sector.

These included:

- *Internet Activity, Australia*, which contained details of Internet activity facilitated by Internet Service Providers in Australia. This publication provided a range of valuable information on developments in this area including the number of business and private Internet subscribers, the volume of traffic through ISPs to Internet subscribers, and the number of lines providing Internet connectivity to subscribers;
- *Use of Information Technology on Farms, Australia*, which provided information on farm use of information technology on a regional basis, highlighting variations across regions;
- *Business Use of Information Technology, Australia*, which summarised business use of information technology including use of Internet and e-commerce;
- the publication of results from surveys of the cultural industries for reference year 1999–2000; and

- the development of a range of producer price indexes to improve the measurement of price change in business and transport services.

Data on the services sector, remains a high priority for Council and it will encourage the ABS to continue to expand its coverage.

Industry classification

Related to the demand for service industry data, Council has highlighted the need for the ABS industry classification to reflect changes in industry structure in areas such as information and business services. Council has raised concerns in the past that international industry classifications reflect only the direct contribution of a particular industry to the economy, rather than incorporating many of the downstream effects that industries can have in other areas of the economy. Therefore, Council sees alternative industry views as important, including demand side views of industry.

Council was encouraged that the ABS presented in 2000–01, alternative views of industry that incorporate a broader view of industry in areas such as food; mining and resources; and waste management and recycling services. It encouraged the work by the ABS and Statistics New Zealand to commence a joint review of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industry Classification (ANZSIC) in 2001. Since the last review of ANZSIC some ten years ago, many changes have occurred in the fabric of the economy, particularly in the rapid growth and diversification of service industries.

ABS household survey program

Council was pleased by the ABS decision in 1999 to review its Household Survey Program and welcomed the opportunities it had to contribute. This is a very important, and costly, collection which enables the Bureau to accommodate data requests from many government agencies and private researchers. The outcomes of the review were very positive and Council was very active in providing advice to ABS in assessing the balance between various fields of social concern in terms of frequency of data and detail of content. The first results of the revised program in 2000–01 include the release of:

- Australian Housing Survey - *Housing Characteristics, Costs and Conditions, 1999*;
- Australian Housing Survey - *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Results*; and

the development and commencement of the 2001 National Health Survey including an Indigenous component, and the 2001 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey of discrete indigenous communities.

Australia's ageing population

In recent years, Council has identified issues associated with an ageing population as high on their list of priorities and welcomed the 1999 social report on *Older People*,

Australia. An ageing population is recognised as an issue relevant to a range of policy departments, and Council has urged the ABS to continue to be pro-active in providing additional data to support policy development and decision making on the issue.

In previous years, Council noted that future provisions for retirement was a significant gap in ABS statistics. Areas of concern in respect of the issue included data on assets, wealth accumulation and the adequacy of superannuation cover. In March 2001, the release of a new ABS publication *Employment Arrangements and Superannuation*, provided information about the diversity of employment arrangements in the Australian labour market, and superannuation coverage in Australia. A further survey on retirement and superannuation was included in the household survey program for 2005–06 on the advice of Council.

The publication in 2000–01 of *Population Projections, Australia 1999 to 2101*, provided a longer timeframe of projections and contained an enhanced analysis on the impact of alternative scenarios, and is a key input to the debate on ageing in Australia. Council also considered a discussion paper from the ABS on issues surrounding an ageing population. The paper highlighted new and expanding areas of ABS data on this issue, including population projections of economic dependency.

Rural and regional statistics

The issues confronting rural and regional Australia have supported Council's long standing efforts to ensure that the ABS give greater emphasis and a sense of urgency to its collections in this sector. The establishment of a National Centre for Rural and Regional Statistics in the South Australian Office of ABS in 2000–01 is considered by Council as an important step in ensuring the appropriate focus to bring together the extensive array of regional data available from disparate sources. Council members noted that one of the major benefits of the ABS regional statistics initiative has been the increased focus on the administrative datasets held by government agencies as a regular source of detailed regional data. The nominees of Premiers and Chief Ministers on Council have assisted ABS work with State/Territory government agencies to improve the quality and reliability of their data holdings. Despite the progress, much remains to be done.

Greater emphasis on research and analysis of data rather than simply compiling estimates

In recent years, Council members highlighted the need for ABS to add value to its own information and that from other agencies. Council has also encouraged the ABS to conduct seminars on key issues in its analysis program.

The establishment of an Analytical Services Branch early in 2000 was strongly supported by Council at the time, and members were very pleased to see development initiatives start to come to fruition in 2000–01. Council was briefed on the significant work and consultation undertaken during 2000–01 on developing a new

publication *Measuring Australia's Progress* (MAP). This publication is a major project that will bring together a range of indicators covering key aspects and indicators of national progress, together with analyses of historical trends and linkages. The first issue of MAP is scheduled for release in April 2002.

Another major achievement in the area of research and analysis, was the release of Australia's first Tourism Satellite Account in 2000–01. An extensive seminar program to assist users in understanding the concepts, sources and methods underpinning the information in the publication was undertaken. Council looks forward to similar techniques being adopted in respect of other industries and sectors such as information technology.

Labour market issues

Labour market issues have been a major priority of Council over many years. This reflects the national importance of labour market policies and the very extensive existing coverage by the ABS. The size of the ABS expenditure has been frequently queried by Council but cutbacks have not been achieved. The need to address emerging labour market issues with new indicators and to increase efforts to make users aware of the large array of data currently available and the frameworks within which the statistics are constructed is widely recognised but funding constraints have to be recognised.

Council members identified two major gaps in the existing suite of labour statistics. First, it was recognised that there was a need for information relating to the extent and nature of job gains/losses (in gross terms) and second, a need for statistics on the number of employees covered by minimum awards and enterprise/workplace agreements, and the differing rates of wage movement. On the issue of statistics on job gains/losses, there was a widespread interest among Council members for the ABS to undertake longitudinal type analysis, drawing upon administrative data as well as directly collected information. A number of occasional papers containing in-depth analyses of selected data from the longitudinal survey of employment and unemployment patterns have outlined the opportunities, and problems of longitudinal sources. On the second issue, the first statistics on employment and earnings by type of industrial agreement have been published.

Social capital

Council members have for some time identified social capital, social cohesion, alienation and related issues as statistical priority areas. In particular, Council members have indicated a need to define and measure social capital.

There has been a range of ABS publications over the years relevant to these issues including an ABS discussion paper – *Measuring Social Capital: Current Collections*

and Future Directions. The paper has been circulated to a wide range of users to engender discussion and to seek input on options for future work on this issue.

Venture capital

In recent times, Council members have identified the need for information about the amount of venture capital invested and the number of start-ups in the industry. The December 2000 quarter edition of *Managed Funds, Australia*, included results of the ABS first-ever survey of venture capital activity.

2. ABS FORWARD WORK PROGRAM – ASAC PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE WORK

The first chapter of this report highlighted the cumulative impact of Council discussion over the past few years on the ABS statistical forward work program outputs in 2000–01 and beyond. It is clear that that impact has been significant. Reflecting the continuing role of Council in influencing the statistical work program, this chapter discusses the key policy issues requiring statistical support over the next five years. Council drew them to ABS attention in 2000–01 in the expectation that they will be adequately addressed in future ABS statistical forward work programs.

In encouraging ABS to consider these issues, Council does not necessarily envisage new ABS statistical collections. Rather, ABS may bring together existing data sources in new analytical frameworks or cross cutting presentations that offer new perspectives on issues. An important aspect of this will be vigorously exploring existing administrative data sources to identify new data series that may have relevance to the policy issues. Council is of the view that data analysis will increasingly be an important part of the ABS role.

The key policy priorities and the statistical responses associated with them are discussed below.

Further work on the ageing population

Council has considered the ageing population to be a key policy issue for some time. Chapter 1 notes the ABS response to date, particularly in respect of 2000–01, and while positive, Council encouraged ABS in 2000–01 to increase its efforts in respect of this increasingly important issue. Areas identified by Council for future consideration by ABS included:

- measures of the positive contribution of the aged such as information on employment and income, extent of self funded retirees, culture/leisure activities, involvement in voluntary work etc;
- greater information on the wealth of the aged and inheritances. Council noted that a possible explanation for the run-down in savings in the economy could reflect the impacts of anticipated inheritances;
- the affect of the ageing population on demand for infrastructure in the areas of health and aged care and recreational and leisure facilities. Associated with this is the need for information on the spatial dimensions of internal migration of the aged;
- a general need to provide more detailed age groupings for data in respect of the aged population; and
- life expectancy issues associated with ageing Indigenous Australians.

Rural and regional statistics

Progress has been made in respect of rural and regional statistics but Council believes more emphasis is necessary. The key future statistical needs in this area are a well defined range of consistent and comparable small area indicators Australia-wide. State Government representatives stress the urgency of the work. With this objective in mind, Council saw a major role in setting statistical standards, and ensuring the quality and reliability of administrative and other external data sources.

Unemployment and employment (changing nature and intensity of work)

As a continuation of the development of relevant statistical indicators relating to the labour force set out in Chapter 1, Council believes that unemployment and employment remain a major economic and social issue but with new dimensions and additional complexity. Council noted the very comprehensive array of existing ABS data on the topic but also noted the need for longitudinal analysis and qualitative data on the impact of unemployment, in terms of how people respond to being without work and the need for social support systems.

Council saw the potential of a theme publication on the topic. The objective and benefits of such a publication would result from bringing together available data in a consistent and coherent manner, to provide a comprehensive picture of key labour force issues.

Education and training statistics

Council welcomed the establishment during 2000–01 of the ABS National Centre for Education and Training to provide a greater focus on the coordination and comparability of data for each of the sectors, both public and private sectors. Council saw very close links between the issues of employment, education and training. Issues identified for consideration include:

- the role of skill formation in the knowledge economy;
- the demographic change and its impacts on delivery of education services;
- approaches to IT skill formation in schools and its possible social impacts (eg loss of ‘people’ skills and physical inactivity);
- access to higher education for people of lower socio-economic status; and
- transition between the education sectors, and between employment and education and training.

Wealth and well-being of Australians

Council has noted that wealth has increasingly become an influence on economic behaviour and activity. As a result, there is a need for information on the distribution

and extent of wealth across Australia. Issues for consideration include the relationship between wealth and income, and analysis of the different population cohorts ie high wealth/low income, low wealth/high income etc. Each of these cohorts is likely to have different patterns of economic activity. Council continues to encourage the ABS to undertake further work in this area.

Innovation and science

The ABS work program in respect of information technology data is extensive and expanding. Research and development expenditure statistics have been published for many years. Council has encouraged further ABS initiatives in these areas, particularly in the area of innovation.

The key unmet need identified by Council was the requirement for more information on the impacts of expenditure on information technology, research and development, and innovation; that is, emphasis on outputs as well as inputs. Such data were viewed by Council as essential to assist policy makers in understanding the economic impacts particularly as it relates to productivity.

Social capital, social cohesion, alienation and related issues

The preliminary work by ABS on social capital issues has been welcomed by Council. However, with the many emerging social issues in modern society, it is the view of Council that it is important that the ABS continue to expand its development of indicators and analysis in this area. One important aspect is the need to measure and understand social capital as a contribution to social and economic development. This issue is of particular relevance at the regional level.

Environment management (costs etc)

Appropriate environmental data has been a priority of Council for some years and the ABS has responded with a significant program of collection, analysis and reporting. Council members encouraged the ABS to expand its activities in this area. Another environmental issue that came to the forefront in 2000–01 was salinity.

Business failures, financial risk management

The importance of small business in the Australian economy is reflected in a range of statistics released by the ABS. An aspect of small business on which Council considers there is a need for more information and analysis is the important issue of business failures. Specifically, there is a need for more data on the rate and cause of business failures so as to better understand the needs of small businesses and the overall business demographics of Australia.

3. ROLE OF ASAC

While the role of Council is clearly and unambiguously stated in legislation, Council has, in 2000–01, actively revisited the issue of how best to pursue that role, and the subsequent implications for the operations of Council.

Under section 18(1) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, the Council is to advise the Minister and the Australian Statistician on:

- the improvement, extension and coordination of statistical services provided for public purposes in Australia;
- annual and longer term priorities and programs of work that should be adopted in relation to major aspects of the provision of those statistical services; and
- any other matters relating generally to those statistical services.

The legislation makes it quite clear that the role of Council is an advisory one rather than a governing role. It should also be noted that the Act covers all statistical services provided for public purposes, not just those of the ABS. Advice to the Minister, would usually be by way of letter or by a special briefing but this has been rarely used. For the Australian Statistician “advice” is by means of the discussion on listed agenda items, or possibly by means of discussions with a sub-group of ASAC members between meetings.

Council's primary role has been providing advice to the Statistician, in particular as it relates to changes in the external environment that are relevant to ABS statistical activities, both current and future. Specifically, Council has been involved in advising on:

- key policy and other issues that are likely to affect statistical priorities;
- the relative merit of statistical programs where there is resource tension;
- the adequacy of statistical services in particular fields, including those provided by organisations other than the ABS; and
- how to manage external pressures that might affect ABS statistical activities.

To date Council has been very effective in its role. Prior to his departure, the previous Statistician, Bill McLennan, who had been involved with Council since its inception, praised its contribution to the ABS and its statistical priority setting. To quote “...all members, past and current, have brought great experience and knowledge to their role, and I thank them for their significant contribution. They have served the

Parliament and the ABS well by acting as a sounding board, forcing the ABS to explain its strategic directions, and providing an external review process."

The operation of Council

The qualities of the membership of Council has been critical to the success of Council over the years. The make-up of Council as specified in the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* is as follows:

- the Chairperson;
- the Statistician (ex officio); and
- such other members, being not less than 10 and not more than 22 in number, as the Minister determines.

The Act also specifies that as part of the membership, each State and Territory government is entitled to nominate one member to Council.

One of the key qualities of members has been that they have been drawn from a wide cross section of the community and have been selected for the expertise and experiences they bring to Council as opposed to representing any particular constituency. Another key aspect to the operations of Council is that consensus is not essential and often not achieved, as the ultimate decision on statistical matters lies with the Australian Statistician. An outcome of this is that debate is vigorous and broad ranging, and the Chairperson has a critical role in bringing the discussion threads together. An inevitable result of this process is that the ABS is exposed to a wide cross section of views which inevitably must lead to better decisions by the ABS.

In considering its operations in 2000–01, Council agreed that two meetings (as opposed to the three meetings that had been traditionally held) of the whole of Council should be held each year. The first meeting would be held in March, and would provide the opportunity for members to advise the Statistician on key statistical priorities for the coming 3 to 5 years, and for the ABS to provide feedback on existing and proposed strategies to address those priorities. The second meeting would be held in November. At that meeting the ABS would present the rolling three-year statistical work program, and highlighting the strategies for addressing the statistical priorities identified by Council. Members would have a further opportunity at that meeting to comment on remaining gaps, or redundancies in the work program.

Council was of the view that the cycle of two meetings would provide it with the opportunity to advise on priorities and to provide feedback on the ABS rolling forward work program within the context of the ABS annual planning cycle. Council saw this approach being of benefit in that it would allow the Statistician to incorporate Council's

advice in a systematic way and to report on the linkage between work program initiatives and priorities identified by Council.

Key statistical issues, which went beyond current work program development, but also needed Council consideration, could be added to the agenda at either meeting. During 2000–01 the Productivity Commission inquiry into cost recovery by Government agencies was an important issue for the ABS, which was referred to Council for consideration and input. On such issues it was agreed that it would be appropriate to occasionally invite external experts to attend discussions of some items. By way of example Professor Judith Sloan, one of the Commissioners conducting the Inquiry, was invited to attend the April 2001 meeting of Council to discuss the above Productivity Commission inquiry.

APPENDIX 1

THE AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Australian Statistics Advisory Council was established by the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*.

This is the twenty fifth Annual Report of the Council, and is made in accordance with sub-section 24(2) of the Act which provides that: ‘the Council shall, as soon as practicable after 30 June in each year, prepare and submit to the Minister, for presentation to the Parliament, a report relating to matters connected with the operation of this Act’.

Under sub-section 18(1) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* the Council is to advise the Minister and the Australian Statistician on:

- (a) the improvement, extension and coordination of statistical services provided for public purposes in Australia;
- (b) annual and longer term priorities and programs of work that should be adopted in relation to major aspects of the provision of those statistical services; and
- (c) any other matters relating generally to those statistical services.

The Act enables the Minister or the Australian Statistician to seek the advice of the Council on these matters. The Council also offers advice on these matters to the Minister or the Australian Statistician when it considers it appropriate to do so.

The Act provides that the Council shall consist of a part-time Chairman, the Australian Statistician (ex officio), and between ten and twenty two part-time members, including one nominee of each State Premier and the Chief Ministers of the two Territories. The Chairman and members are appointed by the responsible Minister for periods of five years and up to three years respectively, and are eligible for reappointment.

The Chairman receives an annual fee, set by the Remuneration Tribunal, and members are reimbursed their travel costs, where applicable. Apart from the Chairman, no members receive remuneration for serving on the Council. Direct expenditure on ASAC during 2000–01 was \$68,186. These costs are met from the Executive component of the ABS budget allocation.

Secretariat services for ASAC are provided by the ABS. The office of ASAC Secretary is held by the Assistant Statistician of the ABS Policy Secretariat Branch. Secretariat support, mainly involving organising and recording of meetings, administering membership and the preparation of Council’s Annual Report is provided by officers of the Policy Secretariat Branch. The cost of these services, which is included in the

Branch's normal running costs, was estimated to be \$59,827 during 2000–01. Financial statements for the ABS are included in the ABS Annual Report.

In addition, ABS officers are involved in the preparation of many of the ASAC agenda papers.

APPENDIX 2

MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL AND ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Membership of Council, 30 June 2001

Member	Position	Date first appointed
Mr John MacLeod	Chairman	17.03.83
Mr Dennis Trewin	Australian Statistician (ex officio)	01.07.00
Ms Christine Bierbaum	Executive Director, Industry Policy and Planning Department of Industry and Trade South Australia	01.12.97
Mr Ken Clarke	Under Treasurer Northern Territory Treasury	(c)
Mr Richard Cox	Director Fiscal Strategy New South Wales Treasury	01.05.97
Dr Peter Crossman	Government Statistician Queensland Treasury Corporation	11.03.99
Prof. Peter Dawkins	Director & Ronald Henderson Professor Melbourne Institute of Applied Economics and Social Research University of Melbourne	01.04.99
Mr Clem Doherty	Chairman Like Minded Individuals	01.05.97 (a)
Prof. Meredith Edwards, AM	Deputy Vice Chancellor University of Canberra	01.03.88 (a) (b)
Mrs Bridget Faye	Company Director	01.05.97 (a)
Dr David Filby	Deputy Director-General Policy and Outcomes Queensland Health Department	01.04.98 (a)
Ms Betty Hounslow	Director Australian Council of Social Service	01.05.97 (a)

Dr Steven Kates	Chief Economist Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry	01.09.91(a)
Mr Mark Kerslake	Deputy Secretary Economic and Financial Policy Division Department of Treasury and Finance Tasmania	01.04.98
Dr Michael Kirby	Director Economic Policy and Financial Strategy Department of Treasury and Finance Victoria	01.09.98
Ms Sandra Lambert	General Manager Policy Group Chief Minister's Department Australian Capital Territory	03.01.00
Ms Anne Nolan	Executive Director (Economic) Department of Treasury and Finance Western Australia	(c)
Dr Ron Sandland	Deputy Chief Executive CSIRO	01.10.94 (a)
(a)	Membership had expired at 30 June 2001, however attended Council as observers.	
(b)	Did not serve on Council between April 1990 and March 1995 (reappointed 01.03.95)	
(c)	Formal appointment processes not yet finalised as at 30 June 2001	

Changes in Membership Since 30 June 2000

July 2000	Mr Alan Cullen resigned
July 2000	Mr Tony Stubbin resigned
August 2000	Mr Tim Marney resigned
October 2000	Prof. Max Neutze deceased
November 2000	Mr Jeff Harmer resigned
April 2001	Dr Ken Henry resigned

Meetings of Council 2000–01

13 July 2000
23 November 2000
20 April 2001

Attendance at Meetings

		Attendance
Chairman	Mr John MacLeod	3
Australian Statistician	Mr Dennis Trewin	3
State/Territory Representatives		
New South Wales	Mr Richard Cox	3
Victoria	Dr Michael Kirby	2
Queensland	Dr Peter Crossman	3
Western Australia	Ms Hazel Kural (a)	1
	Ms Anne Nolan	1
South Australia	Ms Christine Bierbaum	3
Tasmania	Mr Chris Lock (a)	3
Northern Territory	Mr Tony Stubbin (b)	1
	Mr Peter Jones (a)	2
Australian Capital Territory	Ms Sandra Lambert	2
	Mr Ian Hubbard (a)	1
Other Members		
	Mr Alan Cullen (b)	1
	Prof. Peter Dawkins	3
	Mr Clem Doherty	2
	Prof. Meredith Edwards, AM	2
	Mrs Bridget Faye	2
	Dr David Filby	1
	Dr Ken Henry (b)	1
	Dr James Horne (a)	1
	Ms Betty Hounslow	3
	Mr Wayne Jackson (a)	2
	Dr Steven Kates	3
	Prof. Max Neutze, AO (b)	1
	Dr Ron Sandland	0

(a) proxy

(b) member for part year only - see changes in membership since 30 June 2000

APPENDIX 3

INVOLVEMENT OF ASAC MEMBERS IN OTHER ABS ACTIVITIES

ASAC Member	Committee / Group / Activity
Richard Cox	NSW Statistical Consultation and User Forum Economic Statistics User Group
Peter Crossman	Queensland State Statistics Coordinating Committee
Peter Dawkins	Knowledge-based Economy Issues Household Income and Expenditure Statistics User Advisory Group Productivity Commission Cost Recovery Inquiry
Clem Doherty	Productivity Commission Cost Recovery Inquiry
Steven Kates	Labour Statistics Advisory Group Economic Statistics User Group
Michael Kirby	Victorian Statistics Advisory Committee Victorian Economic Statistics Sub-committee
Sandra Lambert	ACT Statistical Coordination Committee
Chris Lock	Tasmanian Statistical Policy Committee
Anne Nolan	Statistical Policy Committee (WA)

APPENDIX 4

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION STATEMENT

Below is a statement, as required by section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982, about the structure of ASAC and how members of the public can obtain access to information held by it.

Establishment, organisation and functions

See The Operation of Council page 11–12.

Powers

As an advisory body, ASAC has no decision-making or other powers directly affecting members of the public. It does not administer any enactments or schemes.

Arrangements for outside participation

ASAC members are appointed by the Minister responsible for the ABS so that a broad range of views and interests is reflected in the advice that it offers to the Minister and the Statistician. Membership details are given on pages 15–17.

Persons or bodies outside the Commonwealth administration may participate in the Council's policy formulation by making representations to the Minister or the Chairman on matters of concern to them.

Categories of documents

The ASAC Annual Report, which is tabled in Parliament, is available from all ABS offices. Files are maintained which contain documents relating to the administration of the Council, papers discussed at Council meetings, summary records of proceedings of meetings and correspondence relating to the activities of the Council.

FOI procedures and initial contact points

All inquiries concerning access to documents, including inquiries under the Freedom of Information Act 1982, may be directed on weekdays, between 8.30am and 4.30pm, to the Secretary, Australian Statistics Advisory Council, c/- Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cameron Offices, Belconnen, ACT 2617 - telephone (02) 6252 5533.

AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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